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| 10/712,886                    | 11/12/2003  | Erol Bozak           | 09700.0035-00       | 2311             |
| 60668                         | 7590        | 03/04/2009           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| SAP / FINNEGAN, HENDERSON LLP |             |                      | DASGUPTA, SOUMYA    |                  |
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                      |                                     |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/712,886 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>BOZAK ET AL. |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>SOUMYA DASGUPTA   | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2176             |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2008.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/11/2009

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Applicant's Response***

In the applicant's response for application 10/712,886 dated 9/03/2008, the applicant amended Claims 1, 4, and 5; added new Claim 14; and argued against all the rejections and objections.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending and have been considered below. Claims 1, 4, and 5 are independent claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

*Claims 1-2 and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang et al (US 2003/0041142; PG Pub Date: Feb 27, 2003; Patent Filing Date: Aug 27, 2001; hereafter Zhang) in view of IBM Redbooks (Reference U – "Intro to Grid Computing with Globus"; Copyright Sep 2003; hereafter IBM) in further view of Graupner (US 2004/0179481; PG Pub Date: Sep 16, 2004; Patent Filing Date: Mar 14, 2003; Assignee: Hewlett Packard; hereafter Graupner).*

**Claim 1:**

**Zhang discloses a computer-readable storage device comprising instructions for causing a processor to receive a request to visualize a network, the network comprising managers running on a plurality of computers functioning as nodes;** (limitation 1) (Fig 4 → Zhang discloses "receive a request to visualize a network, the network comprising managers running on a plurality of computers functioning as nodes" in that the system shows nodes represented as servers connected by directional arrows.)

**and generate, in response to the request, a display comprising: a graph with directional edges and vertices, the vertices representing the nodes in the network and the directional edges representing hierarchical associations between managers.** (limitations 2 and 3) (Fig 4 → Zhang discloses this limitation in that the

system shows nodes represented as servers connected by directional arrows, wherein the system is connected in a hierarchical manner.)

Zhang does not appear to explicitly disclose nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid layout**.

IBM discloses hierarchical structured network and nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid layout**. (pgs 12, 24-25, 126 → IBM discloses a system with the nodes that are used in a grid computing network. The nodes can represent clients, servers, and other components of a network system.) IBM also discloses **computer grid applications**, **grid managers** and **grid network** for *limitations 1, 3, 4* (pgs 12, 24-25, 126)

Zhang and IBM do not appear to explicitly disclose **the nodes operating to route resource requests throughout the network, the resource requests being requests for computational resources from the computers in the network; and (limitation 1) wherein the resource requests are routed within the network from the superior node to the inferior node as indicated by the directional edges (limitation 4)**.

**Graupner discloses the nodes operating to route resource requests throughout the network, the resource requests being requests for computational resources from the computers in the network; and** (limitation 1) (Figs 1-4; paragraphs [0003] , [0031], and [0033]; Abstract → Graupner discloses this limitation in that the system uses position information in the overlay topology for message routing between participating applications.)

**wherein the resource requests are routed within the network from the superior node to the inferior node as indicated by the directional edges.** (limitation 4) (Figs 1-4; paragraphs [0003] , [0031], and [0033]; Abstract → Graupner discloses this limitation in that the system uses position information in the overlay topology for message routing between participating applications.)

Zhang, Graupner, and IBM are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of networking.

At they time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Zhang, Graupner, and IBM before him or her, to incorporate a GUI that contains directional lines that connect servers and other computes together in a network environment, as disclosed by Zhang, with grid computing system, as

disclosed by IBM, and with network topology that contains nodes which delegates messages to its inferior nodes, as disclosed by Graupner.

Since grid network is a type of computer network, the motivation for doing so would have been to allow a user to set up different types of network systems facilitate delegation of tasks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Zhang and Graupner with IBM to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim.

**Claim 2:**

Zhang and IBM disclose the limitations of Claim 1.

Zhang also discloses **the association is peer-to-peer.** (Fig 4 → Zhang discloses a network environment that is connected in a server-server format, a server-client format, or a peer-to-peer format. It is well-known in the art that networks are connected in a server-server format, a server-client format, or a peer-to-peer format.)

**Claim 9:**

Zhang and IBM disclose the limitations of Claim 1.

Zhang discloses **the vertices display a network address for the corresponding grid node.** (paragraph 98 → Zhang discloses “the vertices display a network address for the corresponding grid node” in that the pop-up menu for the designated shows user options and other metadata. The examiner notes that network addresses are a form of metadata. The examiner notes that it is well known in the art for network addresses to be labeled next to the network node. This is done in order to label the node.)

**Claim 10:**

Zhang and IBM disclose the limitations of Claim 1.

Zhang discloses **the vertices display applications currently running on the corresponding grid node.** (paragraph 98 → Zhang discloses “the vertices display applications currently running on the corresponding grid node” in that the pop-up menu for the designated shows user options and other metadata. The examiner notes that computer applications are a form of metadata.)

**Claim 11:**

Zhang and IBM disclose the limitations of Claim 1.

Zhang discloses **in response to user input identifying one of the nodes, a display of a network running on the identified node.** (paragraph 98 → Zhang discloses "in response to user input identifying one of the nodes, a display of a network running on the identified node" in that the pop-up menu for the designated shows user options and other metadata. The examiner notes that computer applications and displaying other networks are a form of metadata.)

Zhang does not appear to explicitly disclose hierarchical structured network and nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid layout**.

IBM discloses hierarchical structured network and nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid layout**. (pgs 12, 24-25, 126 → IBM discloses a system with the nodes that are used in a grid computing network. The nodes can represent clients, servers, and other components of a network system.) IBM also discloses **computer grid applications**, **grid managers** and **grid network** for *limitations 1, 3, 4* (pgs 12, 24-25, 126)

Zhang, Graupner, and IBM are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of networking.

At they time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Zhang, Graupner, and IBM before him or her, to incorporate a GUI that contains directional lines that connect servers and other computes together in a network environment, as disclosed by Zhang, with grid computing system, as disclosed by IBM, and with network topology that contains nodes which delegates messages to its inferior nodes, as disclosed by Graupner.

Since grid network is a type of computer network, the motivation for doing so would have been to allow a user to set up different types of network systems facilitate delegation of tasks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Zhang and Graupner with IBM to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim.

**Claim 12:**

Claim 12 corresponds to Claim 10.

**Claim 13:**

Zhang and IBM disclose the limitations of Claim 1.

Zhang discloses **a display representing a relationship between a network running on the identified node and a network running on another one of the nodes.** (Fig 4

→ Zhang discloses "a display representing a relationship between a network running on the identified node and a network running on another one of the nodes" in that the system shows nodes represented as servers connected by directional arrows.)

Zhang does not appear to explicitly disclose hierarchical structured network and nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid** layout.

IBM discloses hierarchical structured network and nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid** layout. (pgs 12, 24-25, 126 → IBM discloses a system with the nodes that are used in a grid computing network. The nodes can represent clients, servers, and other components of a network system.)

Zhang, Graupner, and IBM are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of networking.

At they time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Zhang, Graupner, and IBM before him or her, to incorporate a GUI that contains directional lines that connect servers and other computes together in a network environment, as disclosed by Zhang, with grid computing system, as disclosed by IBM, and with network topology that contains nodes which delegates messages to its inferior nodes, as disclosed by Graupner.

Since grid network is a type of computer network, the motivation for doing so would have been to allow a user to set up different types of network systems facilitate delegation of tasks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Zhang and Graupner with IBM to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim.

**Claim 14:**

Zhang and IBM disclose the limitations of Claim 1.

IBM also discloses **computer grid applications, grid managers and grid network** represented as nodes for *limitations 1 and 2* (pgs 12, 24-25, 126).

**IBM and Zhang do not appear to explicitly disclose hierarchical nodes comprise at least a first tier of nodes, a second tier of nodes, and a third tier of nodes, the first tier of nodes being superior to the second tier of nodes, and the second tier of nodes being superior to the third tier of nodes, and the directional edges indicate that resource requests are routed within the network from the first tier of nodes to the second tier of nodes, and subsequently from the second tier of nodes to the third tier of nodes.**

Graupner discloses **hierarchical nodes comprise at least a first tier of nodes, a second tier of nodes, and a third tier of nodes, the first tier of nodes being superior to the second tier of nodes, and the second tier of nodes being superior to the third tier of nodes, and (Figs 1-4; paragraphs [0003] , [0031], and [0033]; Abstract → Graupner discloses this limitation in that the system uses position information in the overlay topology for message routing between participating applications. The first tier of nodes is functionally equivalent to the root node. The subsequent tiers of nodes are functionally equivalent to the child nodes.)**

**the directional edges indicate that resource requests are routed within the network from the first tier of nodes to the second tier of nodes, and subsequently from the second tier of nodes to the third tier of nodes. (Figs 1-4; paragraphs [0003] , [0031], and [0033]; Abstract → Graupner discloses this limitation in that the**

system uses position information in the overlay topology for message routing between participating applications. The first tier of nodes is functionally equivalent to the root node. The subsequent tiers of nodes are functionally equivalent to the child nodes.)

Zhang, Graupner, and IBM are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of networking.

At they time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Zhang, Graupner, and IBM before him or her, to incorporate a GUI that contains directional lines that connect servers and other computes together in a network environment, as disclosed by Zhang, with grid computing system, as disclosed by IBM, and with network topology that contains nodes which delegates messages to its inferior nodes, as disclosed by Graupner.

Since grid network is a type of computer network, the motivation for doing so would have been to allow a user to set up different types of network systems facilitate delegation of tasks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Zhang and Graupner with IBM to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim.

*Claims 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang et al (US 2003/0041142; PG Pub Date: Feb 27, 2003; Patent Filing Date: Aug 27, 2001; hereafter Zhang) in view of Boylan et al (US 2003/0101331; PG Pub Date: May 29, 2003; Patent Filing Date: Dec 6, 2001; hereafter Boylan) in further view of IBM Redbooks (Reference U -- "Intro to Grid Computing with Globus"; Copyright Sep 2003; hereafter IBM) in further view of Graupner (US 2004/0179481; PG Pub Date: Sep 16, 2004; Patent Filing Date: Mar 14, 2003; Assignee: Hewlett Packard; hereafter Graupner).*

**Claim 4:**

**Zhang discloses displaying a first graphical user interface (GUI), the first GUI comprising: a graph with vectors and nodes for visualizing a network, the nodes representing computers running a network and the vectors representing relations between superior network and an inferior network, (Fig 4 → Zhang discloses this limitation in that the system shows nodes represented as servers connected by directional arrows. The inferior network is the node at the head of the arrow and the superior network is at the tail end of the arrow.)**

**Zhang discloses for each node, an expandable structure showing computer applications running on a computer represented by the node, (paragraph 98 →**

Zhang discloses "each node, an expandable structure showing computer applications running on a computer represented by the node" in that the pop-up menu for the designated shows user options and other metadata. The examiner notes that computer applications are a form of metadata.)

Zhang discloses **receiving, with an event handler, a request identifying one of the nodes in the first GUI** (paragraph 98 → Zhang discloses "receiving, with an event handler, a request identifying one of the nodes in the first GUI" in that the pop-up menu for the designated shows user options and other metadata. The examiner notes that computer applications are a form of metadata.)

Zhang does not appear to explicitly disclose **displaying a second GUI in response to the request, the second GUI illustrating the network running on the identified node and an inferior network on a node other than the identified node.**

Boylan discloses **displaying a second GUI in response to the request, the second GUI illustrating the network running on the identified node and an inferior network on a node other than the identified node.** (Fig 1 and 2 → Boylan discloses "displaying a second GUI in response to the request, the second GUI illustrating the network running on the identified node and an inferior network on a node other than the

identified node" in that the nodes are disclosed in different hierarchical formats. The inferior nodes and the superior nodes would correspond to the tree in Fig 2 with respect to their relationship with each other in Fig 1.)

Zhang and Boylan do not appear to explicitly disclose nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid layout**.

IBM discloses hierarchical structured network and nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid layout**. (pgs 12, 24-25, 126 → IBM discloses a system with the nodes that are used in a grid computing network. The nodes can represent clients, servers, and other components of a network system.) IBM also discloses **computer grid applications**, **grid managers** and **grid network** for *limitation 2* (pgs 12, 24-25, 126)

IBM, Boylan, and Zhang do not appear to explicitly disclose **inferior nodes**, the **vectors pointing from the superior nodes to the inferior nodes to indicate routing of resource requests between nodes within the network**, the **resource requests being requests for computational resources from the computers in the network**.

Graupner discloses **inferior nodes, the vectors pointing from the superior nodes to the inferior nodes to indicate routing of resource requests between nodes within the network, the resource requests being requests for computational resources from the computers in the network.** (limitation 2) (Figs 1-4; paragraphs [0003] , [0031], and [0033]; Abstract → Graupner discloses this limitation in that the system uses position information in the overlay topology for message routing between participating applications.)

Zhang, Graupner, Boylan, and IBM are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of networking.

At they time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Zhang, Graupner, Boylan, and IBM before him or her, to incorporate a GUI that contains directional lines that connect servers and other computes together in a network environment, as disclosed by Zhang, with grid computing system, as disclosed by IBM, with a hierarchical tree structured GUI that represents the relationships between the nodes, as disclosed by Boylan, and with network topology that contains nodes which delegates messages to its inferior nodes, as disclosed by Graupner.

Since grid network is a type of computer network, the motivation for doing so would have been to allow a user to set up different types of network systems facilitate delegation of tasks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Zhang, Graupner, and Boylan with IBM to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim.

**Claim 5:**

Claim 5 corresponds to Claim 4.

**Claim 6:**

Zhang, Boylan, and IBM disclose the limitations of Claim 6.

Zhang discloses **displaying nodes representing networks in the third list of networks and drawing vectors from the networks in the second list of networks to networks in the third list of networks.** (Fig 4 → Zhang discloses “displaying nodes representing networks in the third list of networks and drawing vectors from the networks in the second list of networks to networks in the third list of networks” in that the system shows nodes represented as servers connected by directional arrows.)

Both Zhang and Boylan disclose **sending a third query to each of the networks in the first list of networks requesting a third list of grid managers having an inferior relation to each networks in the first list of networks**; (Fig 1 and 2 → Boylan discloses "sending a third query to each of the networks in the first list of networks requesting a third list of grid managers having an inferior relation to each networks in the first list of networks" in that the nodes are disclosed in different hierarchical formats. The inferior nodes and the superior nodes would correspond to the tree in Fig 2 with respect to their relationship with each other in Fig 1. Fig 4 → Zhang discloses "sending a third query to each of the networks in the first list of networks requesting a third list of grid managers having an inferior relation to each networks in the first list of networks" in that the system shows nodes represented as servers connected by directional arrows. The inferior network is the node at the head of the arrow and the superior network is at the tail end of the arrow.)

Zhang and Boylan do not appear to explicitly disclose nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid layout**.

IBM discloses hierarchical structured network and nodes as **grid nodes**, and networks and managers as **grid networks** and **grid managers**, computer applications as **computer grid applications** and a network layout as a **computer grid layout**. (pgs 12,

24-25, 126 → IBM discloses a system with the nodes that are used in a grid computing network. The nodes can represent clients, servers, and other components of a network system.)

Zhang, Graupner, Boylan, and IBM are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of networking.

At they time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Zhang, Graupner, Boylan, and IBM before him or her, to incorporate a GUI that contains directional lines that connect servers and other computes together in a network environment, as disclosed by Zhang, with grid computing system, as disclosed by IBM, with a hierarchical tree structured GUI that represents the relationships between the nodes, as disclosed by Boylan, and with network topology that contains nodes which delegates messages to its inferior nodes, as disclosed by Graupner.

Since grid network is a type of computer network, the motivation for doing so would have been to allow a user to set up different types of network systems facilitate delegation of tasks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Zhang, Graupner, and Boylan with IBM to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim.

**Claim 7:**

Claim 7 corresponds to Claim 6.

**Claim 8:**

Claim 8 corresponds to Claim 6.

***Response to Arguments***

**Claims (1-2 and 9-13) Rejection under 35 USC 103(a):**

For Claim 1, the applicant argues that the prior art, Zhang et al (US 2003/0041142), does not disclose "the grid managers operating to route resource requests throughout the grid network, the resource requests being requests for computational resources from the computers in the grid network " and "wherein the resource requests are routed within the grid network from the superior grid managers to the inferior grid managers as indicated by the directional edges" Applicant's arguments, see pages 8-12, filed 12/01/2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Zhang in view of IBM in further view of Graupner.

Claims 1-2 and 9-13 are rejected due to their dependency on Claim 1 respectively.

**Claims (4-8) Rejection under 35 USC 103(a):**

For Claims 4 and 5, the applicant argues that the prior art, Zhang et al (US 2003/0041142), does not disclose "inferior grid managers, the vectors pointing from the superior grid managers to the inferior grid managers to indicate routing of resource requests between grid managers within the computer grid, the resource requests being requests for computational resources from the computers in the grid network." Applicant's arguments, see pages 12-13, filed 12/01/2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 4 and 5 under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Zhang in view of Boylan in further view of IBM in further view of Graupner.

Claims 8-12 are rejected due to their dependency on Claims 4 and 5 respectively.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SOUMYA DASGUPTA whose telephone number is (571)272-7432. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9am-7pm, F 9am-1pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SD

/DOUG HUTTON/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2176